

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05605 061630Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /024 W  
-----014668 061638Z /45

R 051643Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5605

DEPT FOR ARA/PAN AND PAF  
CINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO  
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO INFO DEPT P R 051640Z AUG 77  
FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR INFO

QUOTE  
UNCLAS

STATE FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

EO 11652: N/A

1. PANAMA CITY--BOGOTA SUMMIT: ALL MEDIA AUG. 5 HEADLINE BOGOTA  
SUMMIT MEETING TO OPEN TODAY, EMPHASIZING THAT CONFERENCE WILL  
DISCUSS PROPOSED CANAL TREATY. PRO-GOP MATUTINO HEADS EFE STORY,  
"BOGOTA SUMMIT IS WATCHED BY U.S. WITH INTEREST AND RESPECT."

2. MATUTINO EDIT SAYS THOSE WHO BELIEVE SUMMIT WILL QUICKLY BE  
FORGOTTEN ARE WRONG, THAT IT IS SIGNIFICANT MEETING, CALLED TO  
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DISCUSS "PRESENCE OF COLONIAL ENCLAVE WITHIN AREA...A PHENOMENON  
WHICH AFFECTS AND THREATENS FULL LIBERTY OF CONTINENT."

3. SIMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA EDIT, ALSO DEDICATED TO SUMMIT,  
POINTS OUT PAST SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATING NATIONS FOR PANAMANIAN  
CAUSE: "AND TODAY IN BOGOTA THEIR HIGHEST AUTHORITIES WILL HAVE  
OPPORTUNITY TO RATIFY SOLIDARITY AND AT SAME TIME TO TELL

PRES. CARTER THAT PANAMA IS NOT ALONE IN THIS TRANSCENDENTAL STEP OF ITS HISTORY, AND THAT CONSCIENCE OF AMERICA WILL NOW FOLLOW... ALL DETAILS RELATED TO SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF TREATY WHICH IS AT POINT OF BEING CULMINATED."

4. PRO-GOP AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA EDIT AUG 4 EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT FROM OTHER NATIONS AT SUMMIT: "IN LATAM ONE HAS IMPRESSION THAT NEXT DAYS WILL BE DECISIVE FOR PANAMANIAN CAUSE...FOR THIS REASON SINCERE AND DECISIVE VOICES OF SUPPORT...ARRIVE FROM OTHER NATIONS WHO SEE IN CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS A LATAM PROBLEM."

5. TREATY NEGOTIATION: LA ESTRELLA AND ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD RUN FRONT PAGE PANAMA DATELINE ANNE ORTIZ AP STORY SAYING US AND PANAMA WILL COMPLETE CONCEPTUAL STAGE OF WORK ON NEW TREATY BY END OF NEXT WEEK. STORY QUOTES "SOURCE CLOSE OT U.S. SIDE" SA SAY- ING "THE TREATY IS ALMOST IN THE BAG."

6. MATUTINO AND CRITICA FRONT PAGE DECLARATIONS BY PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL MAJOR LAYOFFS TAKE PLACE AMONG PANAMANIAN EMPLOYEES OF CANAL ZONE AFTER TREATY IS SIGNED. STATEMENTS FOLLOWED CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENT, WHOSE VERACITY DENIED BY ZONE OFFICIALS, SAYING SEVERAL THOUSAND NON-AMERICAN WORKERS WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS UPON SIGNING OF TREATY.

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7. CRITICA EDIT ACCUSES ZONE LABOR LEADER ALFRED GRAHAM OF BEING SOURCE OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, AND PRAISES PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S QUICK DENIAL OF CHARGES: "THIS CATEGORIC PRONOUNCEMENT ABOVE ALL WILL TEND TO LIFT SPIRITS OF PANAMANIAN WORKING MASSES WHO ARE EXECUTIVE FORCE AND LARGE PART OF TECHNICAL SUPPORT WHICH MOBILIZES THE CANAL (AND GIVE THEM) CONFIDENCE THAT NEW TREATY, IF IT IS SIGNED, WILL PROVIDE THEM FULL LABOR JUSTICE WHICH UP TO NOW THEY HAVE SEEN SYSTEMATICALLY DENIED."

8. CRITICA GOSSIP COLUMN DESDE EL CAFETIN SAYS ENTITY TO RUN CANAL UNDER NEW TREATY WILL CONSIST OF FIVE AMERICANS AND FOUR PANAMANIANS, WITH US MANAGER AND PANAMANIAN SUB-DIRECTOR. CAFETIN SAYS ARCHITECT AND PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATOR EDWIN FABREGA WILL BE NAMED SUB-DIRECTOR OF NEW ENTITY, AND APPLAUDS HIS QUALIFICATIONS.

9. LA REPUBLICA COLUMNIST MARIO AUGUSTO WRITES AUG. 4 ON NEUTRALITY AND DEFENSE OF CANAL, SUGGESTING PANAMA WILL BECOME NEUTRAL ENCLAVE SUCH AS SWITZERLAND. AUGUSTO GRANTS THAT "U.S. WILL MAINTAIN, NOMINALLY, CERTAIN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY IN DEFENSE OF INTEROCEANIC WAY. BUT SUCH RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY DO NOT INCLUDE MILITARY INTERVENTION OF ANY

OTHER SORT WITHIN JURISDICTIONAL LIMITS OF PANAMANIAN NATION,  
WHICH WILL INCLUDE CANAL ZONE...AND DEFENSE OF CANAL CANNOT BE  
MADE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN OUR TERRITORY."

10. AUGUSTO BELIEVES MAJOR INTERNAL THREAT TO CANAL WOULD BE  
FROM SABOTAGE, WHICH LARGE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS COULD NOT  
PREVENT. BUT "BEST DEFENSE...IS ABOVE ALL OUR OWN PEOPLE, WHO  
HAVE DEMONSTRATED DURING 70 YEARS...NOT ONLY SUFFICIENT  
CAPACITY BUT ALSO SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN CANAL  
FUNCTIONING." ITEM  
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## Message Attributes

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